

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 01648 232213Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
CU-04 /067 W
-----006757 240740Z /20
R 232123Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8871

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: PARTIES RUN INTO TROUBLE WITH ELECTORAL COMMISSION

REF: (A) LIMA 1488, (B) LIMA 1150

1. FOUR OF THE THIRTEEN POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH HAVE PETITIONED THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (JNE) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUNE 4 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION HAVE BEEN GIVEN ADDITIONAL TIME (TEN DAYS) TO JUSTIFY THEIR ENROLLMENT. THE JNE HAS RULED THAT THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY (PSR) HAVE NOT MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ELECTION LAW BY FAILING TO CERTIFY AT LEAST 12 REGIONAL OFFICES WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS. IN THE CASE OF THE PCP, ONLY TWO OFFICES HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED; THE PSR HAS CERTIFIED FIVE. SINCE THE CERTIFICATION OF REGIONAL OFFICES IS PRIMARILY A MATTER OF COMPLYING WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS, THE PSR AND PCP HAVE PROBABLY JUST RUN AFOUL OF LOCAL BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS. NEITHER THE PCP NOR THE PSR SHOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY SATISFYING THE JNE'S REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE ALLOTTED PERIOD.

2. MORE SERIOUS ARE THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE LEFTIST WORKER PEASANT STUDENT POPULAR COALITION (FOCEP) AND THE CENTER-RIGHT PERUVIAN DEMOCRATIC REFORM PARTY (PDRP). THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JNE HAS "PRUNED" FOCEP'S SIGNATURE LISTS FROM 47,000 SIGNATURES DOWN TO 18,000 AND PDRP'S LISTS FROM 50,000 TO 19,000. AT LEAST 40,000 SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED FOR A PARTY TO ENROLL FOR THE ELECTION. BOTH FOCEP AND PDRP WILL HAVE TEN DAYS TO SUPPLY THE ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES OR THEY WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO PRESENT A SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION.

3. COMMENT: THE JNE GAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THE PRUNING OF THE SIGNATURE LISTS. THE LARGE NUMBER DISALLOWED FROM EACH LIST SUGGESTS EITHER WHOLESALE FRAUD OR SIMILAR IRREGULARITIES. A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT FOCEP AND PDRP USED LISTS ORIGINALLY COLLECTED BY OTHER PARTIES. THE JNE EARLIER RULED THAT SIGNATURES COLLECTED BY ONE PARTY COULD NOT BE ENDORSED OVER TO ANOTHER PARTY. THE PRESIDENT OF THE JNE, DR. ULISES MONTOYA, STRONGLY REJECTED ACCUSATIONS BY GENARO LEDESMA, LEADER OF FOCEP, THAT THE JNE'S RULINGS REFLECTED DISCRIMINATION BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION AGAINST FOCEP. EMBASSY OPINION IS THAT THE JNE HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE INDEPENDENT OF THE GOP AND INTERPRETS THE ELECTORAL LAW IN AN EVEN-HANDED MANNER WITH RESPECT TO ALL CONTENDING PARTIES.

DECON 12/31/78.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, POLITICAL PARTIES, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA01648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-0963
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780223/aaaaatdz.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 23629ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 LIMA 1488, 78 LIMA 1150
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3508126
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARTIES RUN INTO TROUBLE WITH ELECTORAL COMMISSION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23629ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014